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## DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

### JOINT INVENTORS

We, (1) Akiko HEMMI, (2) Yoshihiro MAEDA, (3) Shigeru YAMAGUCHI, and (4) Yoshikazu FUJII declare that we are citizens/subjects of JAPAN, residing at (1) Osaka-shi, OSAKA JAPAN, (2) Toride-shi, IBARAKI JAPAN, (3) Yao-shi, OSAKA JAPAN, and (4) Suita-shi, OSAKA JAPAN and we have read the foregoing specification and claims and we verily believe that we are the original, first, and joint inventors of the invention entitled LOW-MOLECULAR (METH)ACRYLIC ACID (SALT)-BASED POLYMER AND ITS PRODUCTION PROCESS AND USES described and claimed therein; that we have reviewed and understand the content of the attached specification, including the claims; that we acknowledge my duty to disclose information of which we are aware which is material to patentability of this application as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56 and that no application for patent or inventor's certificate on this invention has been filed by us or our representatives or assigns in any country foreign to the United States, except as follows:

Japanese Application No. 2000-206778, filed July 7, 2000

And we hereby appoint:

David S. Abrams	Reg. No. 22,576
Robert H. Berdo	Reg. No. 19,415
Alfred N. Goodman	Reg. No. 26,458
Mark S. Bicks	Reg. No. 28,770
John E. Holmes	Reg. No. 29,392
Garrett V. Davis	Reg. No. 32,023
Stacey J. Longanecker	Reg. No. 33,952
Thomas P. Hilliard	Reg. No. 40,330
Joseph J. Buczynski	Reg. No. 35,084
Robert S. Green	Reg. No. 41,800
Wayne C. Jaeschke, Jr.	Reg. No. 38,503
Lance G. Johnson	Reg. No. 32,531

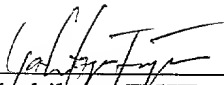
of the firm of ROYLANCE, ABRAMS, BRDO & GOODMAN, L.L.P. as our attorneys or agents with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

Correspondence and telephone calls are to be directed to:

Garrett V. Davis, Esq.  
 ROYANCE, ABRAMS, BERDO & GOODMAN, L.L.P  
 1300 19th Street, N. W., Suite 600  
 Washington, D. C. 20036  
 (202) 659 - 9076

The undersigned declare further that all statements made herein of their own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

- (1) Inventor: Akiko Hemmi  
 Akiko HEMMI  
 Post Office: Same as address  
 Address: 2-5-14-307, Zuiko, Higashiyodogawa-ku, Osaka-shi,  
OSAKA 533-0005 JAPAN  
 Date: June 12, 2001
- (2) Inventor: Yoshihiro Maeda  
 Yoshihiro MAEDA  
 Post Office: Same as address  
 Address: 3-8-1-303, Inodai, Toride-shi,  
IBARAKI 302-0015 JAPAN  
 Date: June 12, 2001
- (3) Inventor: Shigeru Yamaguchi  
 Shigeru YAMAGUCHI  
 Post Office: Same as address  
 Address: 5-112-4, Koorigawa, Yao-shi,  
OSAKA 581-0872 JAPAN  
 Date: June 12, 2001

(4) Inventor:   
Yoshikazu FUJII  
Post Office: Same/as address  
Address: 9-10-406, Takashiro-cho, Suita-shi,  
OSAKA 564-0024 JAPAN  
Date: June 12, 2001